
Introduction

Today, tuberculosis (TB) is still one of the major public health problems in many places in the world. Tuberculosis is a contagious infection caused by the airborne bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. TB is one of the greatest public health problems in the world. It accounts for about 2.5% of the global burden of disease and 26% of preventable deaths. About 95% of all TB cases and 99% of deaths due to TB occur in low-income countries (*World Health Organization, 2008*).

Tuberculosis is a major cause of illness and death worldwide, especially in Asia and Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2008 reported that, one third of the world's population has been exposed to the tuberculosis pathogen. Surveillance and survey data has estimated that 9.2 million new cases of TB occurred in 2006 (139 per 100, 000), including 4.1 million (62 per 100 000) new smear-positive cases. These numbers also includes TB in HIV-positive people (*Chaisson & Martinson, 2008*).

TB is common among the economically active group having direct impact to the family and the national economy. The global burden of TB in developing countries where 75% of cases are within the economically and most productive age group and that burden of TB will cause economic loss to the family and community (*Bhatt, et al, 2009*).

Tuberculosis usually attacks the lungs but can also affect other parts of the body, including the lymph-nodes, the covering of the heart known as the pericardium, the bones and joints, the liver, brain and the intestines. The symptoms of tuberculosis include chest pain, coughing up blood, and a productive, prolonged cough for more than three weeks. Systemic symptoms include fever, chills, night sweats, appetite loss, weight loss, pallor, and often a tendency to fatigue very easily (*Jha & Gajalakshmi, 2008*).

Significance of the study:

Egypt is ranked among the mid-level incidence countries tuberculosis. There are 16 thousand patients annually, and the number of patients currently at around 23 thousand patients, including 1000 patients of the governorate of Cairo, this highest rate of infection with the disease might be due to heavy pollution and dust, and other factors of disease transmission (*El Maghazi, 2009*).

Home health care is provided to individuals and families in their place of residence for the purpose of promoting, maintaining or restoring health for maximizing the level of independence while minimizing the effects of disability and illness including terminal illness. Home health care program for TB patients should be strengthened and it should contain all aspect of the TB prevention. Community health nursing play a variety of roles in controlling TB in individual clients and in population groups. These

roles are incorporated into the nursing process and include assessing risk factors for the individual or population, planning and implementing control strategies and evaluating the effectiveness of communicable diseases intervention (*Clark, 2008*).